

December 4, 2020

JCHA Resident,

Across New Jersey and the nation, the number of COVID-19 cases are again rising. As it has since the beginning of the pandemic, the Jersey City Housing Authority (JCHA) continues to follow federal, state, and local public health guidance and directives to protect the health and safety of our community. We also encourage you to stay vigilant in your efforts to slow the spread and reduce the possibility of contracting COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly urge everyone to wear a mask to protect themselves and others, practice social distancing, and wash their hands regularly.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JCHA has issued a number of interim policies designed to protect both residents and staff. **JCHA operational updates and an FAQ can be found on our website at www.jerseycityha.org/jcha-covid-19, and key interim COVID-19 policies and practices are highlighted below:**

1. **In-person meetings with JCHA staff remain by appointment only.** We encourage you to contact our offices by phone or e-mail instead. If you do need to meet with a staff member in person, you will be asked to first respond to screening questions to assess the presence or risk of COVID-19 before an appointment will be scheduled.
2. **Essential tenant services and work orders.** JCHA continues to provide essential services to residents while maintaining a reduced number of staff in our offices to ensure the safety of residents and staff. All staff members must wear masks when they are in public locations, and the JCHA's cleaning protocols include frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces and the use of electronic disinfectant sprayers. Effective Wednesday December 2, 2020, the JCHA will respond to emergency work orders only. Prior to addressing a work order, residents will be asked screening questions to assess the presence or risk of COVID-19. During work orders, JCHA employees must wear masks and PPE as appropriate and set forth by JCHA policy. Residents must also wear a mask and maintain social distancing while work is being conducted in units.
3. **Free COVID-19 testing available.** Free COVID-19 testing is being conducted by the Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services every Monday at public housing sites on a rotating basis. Notices are posted a day or two in advance. Testing is free to all Jersey City residents. **For more information about COVID-19 testing and a list of testing sites city-wide, visit <https://jerseycitynj.gov/CityHall/health>.**

4. **Free mental health and crisis counseling.** Mental health and crisis counseling resources are available through NJ Hope and Healing via the Family Service Bureau of Newark. For confidential assistance, call 973-272-7488 or email FSBNJHH@newcommunity.org. A comprehensive list of mental health resources is available on the JCHA website.
5. **Free masks available to JCHA residents.** Any JCHA resident who needs masks may request them directly from their site management office; Housing Choice Voucher participants can contact Mary Olan at 201 706-4677 or molan@jcha.us. Jersey City has also launched a campaign called **#MaskUpJC** and will be mailing disposable masks to every household. Cloth masks provided by the City will also be available for distribution in the near future.
6. **We want to stay connected with you!** Please follow JCHA on social media (Facebook **@JCHousing** and Instagram **@jerseycityhousingauthority**) and check our website for COVID-related updates, events, and resources (including our new JCHA Digital Resource Guide). For direct support, please contact the **JCHA Resident Empowerment and Community Engagement (RECE) Department** via email at RECE@jcha.us or by calling 201-706-4695.
7. **COVID-19 Education and Resource Event.** Jersey City Medical Center hosting a COVID-19 education and resource webinar for JCHA residents on December 1. An expert panel discussed precautionary measures, physical and mental health resources, and responded to participant questions. In case you missed it, a recording of this event can be found here: <https://bit.ly/JCMCvid1>.

Sincerely,



Vivian Brady-Phillips
Executive Director